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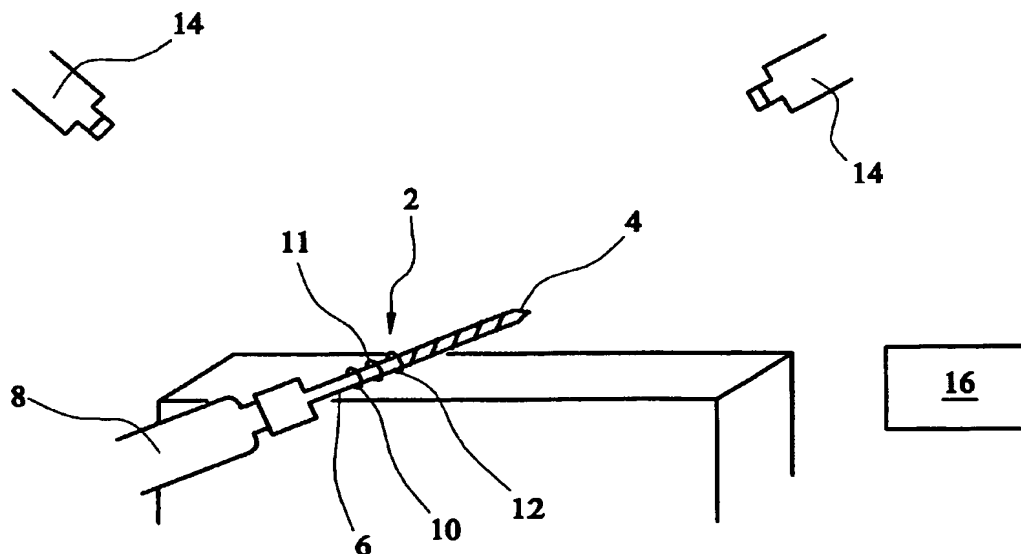
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(54) Title: A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument system includes a tool (2) including an elongate shaft which defines the tool axis. The shaft bears a plurality of marker rings (10, 11, 12) arranged in a predetermined pattern on the surface of the shaft so that they extend around the shaft axis, the marker rings identifying the tool. The system includes a device (14) for receiving signals from the rings, and a data processor (16) for analysing the signal from the rings and generating information relating to the identity of the tool.



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